



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SAVANNAH DISTRICT  
100 W. OGLETHORPE AVENUE  
SAVANNAH, GEORGIA 31401-3604

November 21, 2017

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District**

**TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:**

**SUBJECT:** Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and Draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for additional development proposed at Hart State Park in Hartwell, Georgia. The report evaluated potential impacts of additional outdoor recreation development at Hart State Park.

**Notice of the following is hereby given:**

1. Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, notice is hereby given that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District (USACE) proposes to improve and provide additional outdoor recreational facilities within Hart State Park.
2. Savannah District announces the availability to the public of a Draft EA and Draft FONSI concerning modifications and improvements to Hart State Park. Copies of the documents can be downloaded from the District website at <http://www.sas.usace.army.mil/About/DivisionsandOffices/PlanningDivision/PlansandReports.aspx>. Copies may also be obtained through email request to the following address: CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil, or by contacting Mr. Nathan Dayan at (912) 652- 5172.
3. Written statements from those interested in the activity and whose interests may be affected by the proposed action regarding the Draft EA and FONSI for the proposed action will be received at the Savannah District Office until

**12 O'CLOCK NOON, December 22, 2017**

**DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTION:** The proposed plan would provide improved and additional outdoor recreation opportunities at Hart State Park, as described in a new Development Plan for the Park, and modify the existing Hartwell Project Masterplan to incorporate the changes at the Park. The Development Plan has been prepared to meet the future growth needs of Hart State Park. In general, the proposed plan includes utility, road and common area infrastructure upgrades, additional and improved camping facilities, new cabins, a water front restaurant, various outdoor activities, wedding and other event venues, outdoor amphitheatres, and a future

lodge. The plan was specifically designed to maintain and expand the outdoor recreation opportunities at Hart State Park, while also providing additional revenue generating options to support the costs of continued management and maintenance of the park. The City of Hartwell intends to ask the Georgia Department of Natural Resources to terminate its present lease with the USACE for the Park so that the City of Hartwell could enter into a lease for operation of the Park, including the new development.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY EVALUATION:**

**Environmental Assessment:** Savannah District has prepared a Draft EA and found that an Environmental Impact Statement will not be required for this action. The Draft EA is being coordinated concurrently with this Notice to federal and state natural resource agencies and public for review and comment.

**Wetlands:** The proposed action would result in no direct or indirect adverse impacts to wetlands as the locations in which the modifications and improvements are planned to occur are outside the known wetland areas.

**Threatened, Endangered and other Protected Species:** No observations of state or federal listed species were noted during a field investigation in April 2015. Since direct impacts are not proposed to streams, wetlands or other aquatic systems, impacts to the listed aquatic species are not expected. Potential habitat was identified for the following protected species: bald eagle and northern long-eared bat. No observations of these species were made during field efforts. None of the listed plants were federally protected and none were observed during the field visit. Based on this information, it is unlikely that protected species are present in the project area. Therefore, no reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts to threatened and endangered species are anticipated by the proposed action.

**Cultural Resources:** A detailed literature review was conducted for the Park. No historic or archeological resources were identified during the research. Based on review of historic aerial photographs and the determined age of the structures within the Park, none of the existing structures on the Park are considered to meet the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Properties, so no direct effects on historic resources are expected.

**Water Quality Certification:** Section 401 Water Quality Certifications from the State of Georgia is not needed for the proposed action. Impacts to water quality would be negligible for either the Proposed Plan or the No Action alternative.

**Clean Air Act:** The minor and temporary impacts associated with construction are not anticipated to adversely affect the ambient air quality of the area. No release or discharge of contaminants into the air is proposed from construction of the project or from daily operations that would significantly impact the ambient air quality. Impacts to air quality from other activities in the area are not expected to be significant. Therefore,

no long-term adverse impacts to air quality are anticipated as a result of the proposed action.

**Application of the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines:** No dredging or sediment disposal activities are included in the proposed plan. Therefore, a Section 404(b)(1) evaluation is not required.

**Public Interest Review:** The decision whether to proceed with the project as proposed will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both the protection and use of important resources. The benefits which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal will be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors relevant to the proposal will be considered. Among these are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife, land use, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, consideration of property ownership, environmental justice, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

**Consideration of Public Comments:** USACE is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by USACE in its deliberations on this action. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts to endangered species, wetlands, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of the Final EA and FONSI pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public meeting and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

**Comment Period:** Anyone wishing to make a comment on this proposed action should submit comments no later than the end of the comment period which is 30 days from publication shown in this notice, in writing, to the, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Savannah District, Planning Branch, ATTN: Mr. Nathan Dayan (PD), 100 West Oglethorpe Avenue, Savannah, Georgia 31401-3640, by FAX to 912-652-5787, or by emailing the comments to the following address: CESAS-PD@usace.army.mil.



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